In selecting Stephen J. Withrow, DVM, Diplomate ACVS, for the 2012 ACVS Founders’ Award for Career Achievement, the ACVS membership recognizes one of the most world-renowned veterinary surgical oncologists.

Many of the national and international awards and honors Dr. Withrow has received give evidence to this fact including: American Animal Hospital Association National Award of Merit; Fellow – Musculoskeletal Tumor Society; Q Award, American Cancer Society, Service and Rehabilitation; Gaines Research Award, selected by American Veterinary Medical Association; Mark L. Morris, Senior Lifetime Achievement Award; and Bourgelat Award by the British Small Animal Veterinary Association.

Dr. Withrow graduated from the College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Minnesota in 1972 and completed an internship and surgical residency at the Animal Medical Center. He is currently a faculty member of the College of Veterinary Medicine, Colorado State University. Dr. Withrow became a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons in 1978, and a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (Oncology) in 1988.

Dr. Withrow has been the primary or co-author of 238 papers in referred journals and the author or co-author of 40 textbook chapters. Dr. Withrow has given more than 273 invited presentations, including the Mark W. Allam Lecture at the 1999 ACVS Veterinary Symposium, in nine countries.

A colleague noted, “Dr. Withrow is a life model for the tenets of teaching, research and service developed by the founders of ACVS.”

In selecting A. Simon Turner, BVSc, MS, Diplomate ACVS, for the 2013 ACVS Founders’ Award for Career Achievement the ACVS membership recognizes a leading authority in equine orthopedic surgery. He is a well-known and legendary figure both nationally and internationally among not only veterinary surgeons but human surgeons and orthopaedic researchers.

Following a successful career as an equine surgical clinician, Dr. Turner transitioned into an orthopedic research career when, in 1989, he created the Small Ruminant Comparative Orthopaedic Research Laboratory at Colorado State University (CSU). Since that time, Dr. Turner has performed research totaling near $25 million at the CSU College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. These research dollars have produced nearly $10 million of indirect funds used to expand areas within clinical sciences and improve the veterinary and surgical training programs at CSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital. His preclinical research has played a vital part in the development of 11 FDA-approved products now on the market and available to the medical profession.

Education is another of Dr. Turner’s passions. He employed nearly 30 students each year in his research laboratory and mentored countless veterinary students during some of their most informative, impressionable years—many of which have gone on to pursue a career in veterinary surgery.

Recently, Dr. Turner became Professor Emeritus at CSU and has “retired” from his preclinical research laboratory. He left behind a thriving laboratory that shines in the field of preclinical research.

A colleague noted, “Not only has Simon been a successful equine clinician and ovine orthopedic researcher, he has also been an exceptional educator and mentor to many surgeons, residents, veterinarians, veterinary students and pre-veterinary students.”

The ACVS Founders’ Award for Career Achievement was established to recognize the service of ACVS Diplomates who have distinguished themselves in the pursuit of surgery by making significant contributions to the development of surgical techniques and methodology, and disseminating knowledge to colleagues, residents, and students.

Past recipients of The ACVS Founders’ Award for Career Achievement:
2005 – Wade O. Brinker, DVM, MS
2006 – C. Wayne McIlwraith, BVSc, PhD
2007 – Fred P. Sattler, DVM
2008 – William Lumb, DVM, PhD, DSc
2009 – Donald L. Piermattei, DVM, PhD
2011 – Steven P. Arnoczky, DVM
In selecting Aldo Vezzoni, Med. Vet, DECVS, for the 2013 ACVS Merit Award, the ACVS membership recognizes an internationally renowned leader in the area of juvenile canine orthopedics.

Dr. Vezzoni’s dedication to the veterinary profession is evident in his founding or participation in founding numerous organizations including the Italian Companion Animal Veterinary Society, the Federation of the European Companion Animal Veterinary Associations, the Animal Health Foundation, the Italian Society of Veterinary Orthopedics and a joint venture with the Veterinary Orthopedic Society to organize the World Veterinary Orthopedic Congress every four years. Dr. Vezzoni also developed the Ortho VetSuperSite website for the European Society of Veterinary Orthopedics and Traumatology to disseminate information relating to veterinary orthopedics and traumatology.

Dr. Vezzoni has published 42 papers in national and international journals; presented over 600 lectures in 19 countries; translated 14 textbooks; written eight practice publications and created numerous surgical video programs.

Dr. Vezzoni was an adjunct professor in orthopedics at the Veterinary School of Milan and at the Veterinary School of Vienna in 2010 and 2011, with an emphasis on teaching and training residents in orthopedic surgery. He is a faculty member of AO Courses in Italy, Switzerland, and the United States and a leader of AO Master Classes on Limb Alignment and Patellar Luxation in Europe. Additionally, Dr. Vezzoni is a member of the European Board of AO-Vet.

A colleague chose a quote from Albert Einstein to describe Dr. Vezzoni: “Any fool can know. The point is to understand.”
The ACVS Foundation is pleased to announce that H. Phil Hobson, DVM, MS, ACVS Diplomate, is the recipient of the 2012 ACVS Foundation Legends Award for his dedication and contributions to the field of veterinary surgery.

Dr. Hobson became an ACVS Diplomate in 1973, eight years after the College’s incorporation. He received a BS (1954) and then a DVM degree from the University of Illinois (1956). After graduating, he joined the faculty of Auburn University for two years while concurrently earning an MS by completing a thesis investigating angiocardiology in Dirofilaria-positive dogs. He returned to his origins in Carrollton, Illinois, entering a general practice where he applied his expertise for seven years. He was then recruited by Texas A & M University as a member of their clinical faculty. He ascended the ranks from assistant to full professor; performing as service chief he guided the advancements of many committees and the university over the next 45 years.

Inspiring others with his passion for the profession and surgery, Dr. Hobson has served as a role model and mentor for many veterinary surgeons and students. He is a creative man who has provided numerous innovative ideas to resolve some of the surgical challenges of his time.

Dr. Hobson described procedures for tracheoplasty (external ring prostheses), permanent tracheostomy and pectus excavatum which have "withstood the test of time."

The ACVS Foundation Legends Award recognizes ACVS Diplomates who have developed a surgical or diagnostic procedure of significant value, proven by becoming the treatment or test of choice for a given condition. The procedure or test has “withstood the test of time” and, while possibly modified over time, remains the treatment or diagnostic method of choice or the scientific basis for the current treatment of choice. The procedure or test is novel and involves advancements in veterinary surgical science and not reapplication of general medical science.

Past recipients of the ACVS Foundation Legends Award:
2005 – George P. Wilson, VMD, MSc
2006 – Martin P. DeAngelis, DVM
2007 – Charles W. Raker, VMD
2008 – Marvin L. Olmstead, DVM, MS
2009 – George E. Eyster, VMD, MS
2010 – Larry R. Bramlage, DVM, MS
2011 – Robert L. Leighton, VMD
2012 – H. Phil Hobson, DVM, MS